

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 11, 2008

Survey finds civic candidates in Lower Mainland overwhelmingly opposed to waste incineration

VANCOUVER – A survey of candidates for Mayor and Council across the Lower Mainland found overwhelming opposition to Metro’s plan to build waste incinerators in the region.

Of the **117** candidates who responded to the survey by *Zero Waste Vancouver*, **80** answered “No” to the question: *Do you support Metro’s plan to build waste incinerators in the region?*

An even larger number, **101**, answered “No” to the question: *Would you support a waste incinerator being built in your community?*

All 117 respondents answered “Yes” to the question: *Do you think waste is an important issue?*

Only five candidates responded that they would support an incinerator in their own community, while seven said that they would oppose incinerators in their own communities but supported them elsewhere in the region.

“The strong response to our survey – with one-third of the candidates we contacted submitting positions – as well as the very lop-sided results spell trouble for Metro Vancouver’s current direction in waste management,” said Helen Spiegelman, coordinator of the organization that conducted the survey.

“We think these results indicate that it will be difficult for Metro Vancouver to obtain the needed municipal approval for a waste plan that is centered on a huge investment in waste incinerators.”

Instead, many of the 53 of the respondents who provided written comments called for stronger measures for waste reduction rather than what one candidate referred to as “band-aid” solutions like landfills and incinerators.

.... more

Zero Waste survey finds opposition to incineration, page 2:

The survey was sent by email last week to 312 candidates for Mayor and Council in 23 municipalities from West Vancouver to Abbotsford who publicly posted their email addresses.

The response rate was 37%, with many respondents offering comments as well as replies to the three questions on the survey.

Since January 2008, Metro has been proposing a waste strategy that would include construction and operation of up to six “waste-to-energy” facilities in the region at a cost of \$2.5 - \$3.0 billion dollars.

The five candidates who said they would approve incinerators in their own communities are Ron Abgrall and Shannon Assion of Langley City, Mel Kositsky of Langley Township, Mike Little of North Vancouver District, and Linda Barnes of Richmond.

The 80 candidates who said “No” to incinerators either in their own community or elsewhere in the region are listed on the attached page.

Zero Waste Vancouver is a non-partisan citizens’ initiative promoting preventative solutions to the waste problem. See our Call to Action at www.zerowastevancouver.org and our blog at <http://blog.zerowastevancouver.org>.

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OTHER INTERESTING FINDINGS:

- In **Vancouver**, the electoral organizations Vision and COPE responded that they oppose incinerators. However there was no response from the NPA or any of its candidates despite the fact that both Mayoral candidate Peter Ladner and Council candidate Suzanne Anton have served on the Metro Waste Management Committee.
- **TEAM Burnaby** stated opposition to additional incinerators in the region, while the **Burnaby Citizens Association** said Metro should do more research before a decision is made on new incinerators for the region.
- Over half of the candidates in **Port Moody** responded to the poll and all took positions against waste-to-energy (public opposition to a proposed waste gasification plant in that city led to the withdrawal of the proposal last month).

ZERO WASTE VANCOUVER CANDIDATE POLL
RESULTS
November 2008

TOTAL number of surveys sent	312
TOTAL number of respondents	117

QUESTION: Would you support a waste incinerator being built in your community?

NO	101
YES	5*
Not sure/maybe/refused to respond	11

* Respondents who responded YES:

1. Ron ABGRALL (Langley City)
2. Shannon ASSION (Langley City)
3. Mel KOSITSKY (Langley Township)
4. Mike LITTLE (N. Vancouver District)
5. Linda BARNES (Richmond)

QUESTION: Do you support Metro's plan to build waste incinerators in the region?

NO	80
YES	12
Not sure/maybe/refused to respond	25

Respondents who indicated they WOULD support Metro incinerators -- but NOT in their own community:

1. Colin RICHARDSON (Belcarra)
2. Gayle MARTIN (Langley City)
3. Marika VAN DOMMELEN (Langley City)
4. Jeff GINGERA (Maple Ridge)
5. Rod CLARK (N. Van City)
6. Gregg HENDERSON (West Vancouver)
7. Stewart PEDDEMORS (White Rock)

Full list of candidates opposing incinerators on next page...

Civic candidates who DO NOT SUPPORT INCINERATORS

(either in their own community or elsewhere in the region)

ABBOTSFORD

Alvin EPP
George PEARY
Dan BUE
John DAVIDSON
Tim FELGER
Lynne HARRIS
Patricia ROSS

ANMORE

Ken JUVIK

BOWEN ISLAND

Lisa BARRETT

BURNABY

TEAM BURNABY (9 candidates – 1
Mayor, 8 Councillor)

COQUITLAM

Richard STEWART
Barrie LYNCH
Linda REIMER
Selina ROBINSON
Harry WARREN

ELECTORAL AREA "A"

Ben WEST
Charles MENZIES

LANGLEY CITY

John Mark ARCHIBALD
Dave HALL

LANGLEY TOWNSHIP

Charlie FOX
Murray JONES
Sonya PATERSON
Glen TOMBLIN

MAPLE RIDGE

Christian COWLEY
Linda KING
Carly O'ROURKE
Michael PATTERSON
Craig SPEIRS

NEW WESTMINSTER

Betty MCINTOSH
Gavin PALMER
Neil POWELL

NORTH VAN CITY

Darrell MUSSATO
Craig KEATING
Sam SCHECHTNER

NORTH VAN DISTRICT

Doug MCKAY-DUNN
Alan NIXON

PORT MOODY

Shane KENNEDY
Mike CLAY
Rick GLUMAC
Yvonne HARRIS
Sylvia RICHARDSON
Karen ROCKWELL
Jonathan SCHADEN
Robert SIMONS
Rosemary SMALL

RICHMOND

Derek DANG
Bill MCNULTY
Michael WOLFE

SURREY

Rina GILL
Paul HILLSDON
James Walter MCMURTRY
Stephanie RYAN

VANCOUVER

COPE (2 candidates for Councillor)
VISION VANCOUVER (9 candidates
– 1 Mayor, 8 Councillor)
Golok BUDAY
Mike HANSEN
R. H. MAXWELL
Bill RITCHIE
Lea JOHNSON
Bud ORACLE
Geri TRAMUTOLA

WEST VANCOUVER

Alex HORSBURGH

WHITE ROCK

James COLERIDGE